

An Assessment of the Alaska Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

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**by the
State and Territorial
Injury Prevention Directors Association**



Infrastructure recommendations

- Establish an Injury Prevention and Control Section within the Division of Public Health, inclusive of injury prevention, emergency medical services and injury epidemiology units.
- Seek sustainable funding sources proactively to support injury prevention program capacity, including state, regional, municipal and local infrastructure.
- Assess the skills and knowledge of ISAPP personnel and align positions to be congruent with core injury prevention functions. Establish two separate positions to manage the injury prevention unit and the injury epidemiology and surveillance unit. Develop an annual section workplan that clarifies individual roles and responsibilities, with staff involvement
- Establish a formal statewide external advisory group, including current and new partners.
- Develop, implement and evaluate a three to five year statewide injury prevention plan.
- Expand and diversify partnerships.
- Build the capacity of Anchorage and other municipalities to provide injury prevention leadership.
- Integrate Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) recommendations within ISAPP programs and dissemination strategies.

Data collection, analysis and dissemination recommendations

- Maintain the quality data collection procedures for the Alaska Trauma Registry and improve the timeliness of the final datasets.
- Acquire statewide emergency department injury data through the state hospital association, and provide capacity for the analysis of this data.
- Obtain access to the Medical Examiner data set on all fatal injuries as it is upgraded and computerized.
- Continue efforts to acquire emergency medical services data from ambulance units or fire departments, as applicable.
- Take advantage of the new design of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System to add questions on injury topics.
- Provide initial and periodic data summaries of fatal and non-fatal violent and unintentional injuries and risk factors to new injury prevention partners.
- Identify areas for collaboration with the Epidemiology Section to analyze injury data.

Intervention design, implementation and evaluation recommendations

- Shift the focus of ISAPP to capacity building including consulting, coordination, and training on the design, implementation, and evaluation of injury prevention programs.
- Articulate the role and function of ISAPP in violence prevention.
- Implement interventions that are data driven and address a wide range of populations and types of injuries. Embed social marketing strategies into these efforts to increase potential for social norm change.
- Access and promote the use of national resource centers to identify best practices.
- Identify opportunities to integrate injury prevention into other existing Department of Health and Social Services programs.
- Develop or enhance partnerships and communication with state agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations that have potential to be state leaders in injury prevention.
- Develop formal agreements with the Alaska Injury Prevention Center and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to implement and evaluate programs.
- Employ incentives to promote comprehensive strategies that include policy and environmental change.
- Develop and implement an evaluation plan for all programmatic areas, encompassing formative, process and impact, as well as outcome evaluation methods.

Technical support and training recommendations

- Conduct a formal assessment of staff skills and knowledge and develop individual training plans to assure proficiency in primary areas of responsibility.
- Use internal and external resources to develop an injury prevention training manual and provide a program orientation for new hires and staff reassigned to ISAPP.
- Provide appropriate educational opportunities for ISAPP staff and partners.
- Provide professional development opportunities for the injury program manager in public health leadership, organizational development, personnel management, and strategic planning.
- Catalog existing training resources in all regions of Alaska and identify gaps.

- Expand access to national injury prevention information and resources.
- Develop a comprehensive, systematic training plan for program staff and partners, the public, media, and policy makers.
- Utilize injury prevention partners as a resource for training and technical assistance in specific topic areas.
- Enhance the injury prevention program relationship with universities and colleges statewide.

Public policy recommendations

- Continue to provide data and best practice information to the DHSS leadership and legislators.
- Implement a process to regularly disseminate injury data, educate and encourage joint investment for injury and violence prevention.
- Disseminate information about promising injury prevention policies to stakeholders at the local level.
- Develop a policy chapter in the new injury prevention strategic plan that sets goals and measurable objectives.
- Empower constituencies to hold legislative Fact Finding Hearings on injury prevention issues.
- Submit a formal legislative concept to establish a special recurring account for local and state injury prevention.
- Provide training and education to constituency groups interested in pursuing policy change.
- Collaborate with the Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health on the work of the Suicide Prevention Council.

* In this document, the word “injury” is used to connote all forms of intentional and unintentional injury.